

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the examiner's thorough review of the prior art and requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

The office action maintains the rejection of claims 1-25 as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by the disclosure of US Patent No. 5,710,678 (Leuthold et al., hereinafter "Leuthold").

To that end, the office action states that because the steel ball is fixed to the end of shaft 20, it is impossible for the ball to not move when the shaft is rotated. The office action continues by stating that the cited ball (160) reads on the limitation "a movable support member being movable relative to the shaft" as recited in claim 1. Applicant agrees that the steel ball 160 of Leuthold moves when the shaft 20 is rotated. However, because the steel ball 160 of Leuthold is fixed to the end of shaft 20, the steel ball appears to remain stationary relative to the shaft. Nowhere does Leuthold state that the steel ball 160 moves relative to the shaft.

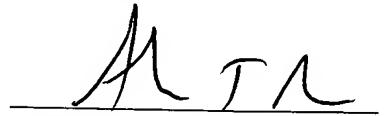
Accordingly, because the Leuthold motor does not have a support member that is movable *relative to* its shaft, such as that claimed by Claim 1, it may suffer from wear problems discussed in the application. Accordingly, for these and other reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. In addition, dependent Claims 2-11 also are allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 12-19 require that the movable support member is movable relative to the shaft, and claims 20-25 require that the movable means is movable relative to the shaft. Accordingly, claims 12-25 are allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to claim 1.

Consideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant believes that no extension of time is required; however, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that the applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for an extension of time. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge deposit account number 19-4972.

If the Examiner has any questions as to the allowability of the currently pending claims or if there are any defects which need to be corrected, the Examiner is invited to speak to the Applicants' counsel at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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